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July 14, 2016

To: Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, Chair
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Sheila Kuehl
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: Sachi A. Hamai
Chief Executive Officer

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MOTION TO SUPPORT AB 2444, THE CALIFORNIA PARKS, WATER, CLIMATE AND COASTAL PROTECTION AND OUTDOOR ACCESS FOR ALL ACT OF 2016 (ITEM NO. 9, AGENDA OF JULY 19, 2016)

Item No. 9 on the July 19, 2016 Agenda is a motion by Supervisor Solis recommending that the Board of Supervisors direct the Chief Executive Office and the County's Sacramento advocates to prepare a five-signature letter in support of AB 2444 (Garcia), the California Parks, Water, Climate, and Coastal Protection and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2016, which would authorize the issuance of State general obligations bonds in the amount of \$3.12 billion to finance parks, water, climate and coastal protection and outdoor access for all programs.

Support for AB 2444 is consistent with existing Board-approved policy to support proposals to fund the acquisition, development, and rehabilitation of parks and recreation facilities and open space, and to seek additional funding for the establishment of new urban parks in the underserved areas of the County. It is also consistent with the Board's action of July 5, 2016, to create a new and dedicated funding source for parks and recreation facilities by placing the County's parks and recreation funding measure on the November 8, 2016 ballot.

Background

The Legislature is considering legislation, AB 2444 (Garcia), which would place the California Parks, Water, Climate, and Coastal Protection and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2016 on the November 2016 statewide ballot. This measure would authorize, upon voter approval, the issuance of \$3.12 billion in bonds for the improvement of State and local parks, in addition to water, climate, and coastal protection.

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The deadline for placing statewide ballot measures on the November 2016 ballot was June 30, 2016. However, AB 2444 contains an exception and an urgency clause which would allow placement of the proposed measure on the November 8, 2016 ballot, if approved by the Legislature and signed by the Governor.

California Parks, Water, Climate, and Coastal Protection and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2016

AB 2444 (Garcia), which as amended on June 23, 2016, would place the California Parks, Water, Climate, and Coastal Protection and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2016 (Act) on the November 8, 2016 statewide ballot. If approved by the voters, the Act would authorize the issuance of State general obligations bonds in the amount of \$3.12 billion to finance parks, water, climate, and coastal protection and outdoor access for all programs. Specifically, AB 2444 would allocate funding as follows:

1) \$995.0 million for Safe Neighborhood Parks (in park-poor neighborhoods)

- For a competitive grant program in accordance with the Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Act of 2008.

2) \$1.06 billion for Local and Regional Parks

- \$450.0 million for local park rehabilitation and improvement per capita grants - with 60 percent allocated to cities and park districts, and 40 percent to counties, regional parks, and open space districts.
- \$35.0 million for grants to small cities and districts (200,000 people or less).
- \$120.0 million for competitive grants to regional park districts, counties, open space districts, and non-profits to expand, rehabilitate, or restore parks and facilities.
- \$350.0 million in competitive grants for restoration and preservation of existing State park facilities.
- \$50.0 million in competitive grants for trails and waterfront greenway investment.
- \$50.0 million in competitive grants for rural recreation.

3) \$1.07 billion for Water and Land Conservation

- \$210.0 million for river parkways and urban streams, including:
 - Not less than 50 percent for the Los Angeles River (with a 50/50 split between the upper and lower river);
 - Five percent for the Santa Ana River; and
 - The remainder to provide grants for projects that are consistent with the California River Parkway Act of 2004.
- \$245.0 million for State conservancies, including:
 - \$5.0 million for the Baldwin Hills Conservancy;
 - \$25.0 million for the San Gabriel and Lower L.A. Rivers and Mountains Conservancy;
 - \$20.0 million for the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy;
 - \$17.5 million for the California Tahoe Conservancy;
 - \$10.0 million for the Coachella Mountains Conservancy;
 - \$15.0 million for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy;
 - \$25.0 million for the Salton Sea Authority;
 - \$15.0 million for the San Diego River Conservancy;
 - \$10.0 million for the San Joaquin River Conservancy;
 - \$22.5 million for the Sierra Nevada Conservancy; and
 - \$80.0 million for the State Coastal Conservancy.
- \$650.0 million for climate preparedness and habitat resiliency.

AB 2444 would require the State to develop and adopt project guidelines and to hold public hearings before it finalizes the guidelines; and require the California Department of Finance to perform and publish an audit of expenditures of the bond funds.

According to the Assembly Appropriations Committee analysis of AB 2444, the annual cost to the State General Fund for principal and interest payments will be approximately \$194.0 annually, during the bond repayment period.

AB 2444 is similar to **County-support-and-amend SB 317 (De León) of 2015**, which would have authorized the issuance of \$2.45 billion to finance safe neighborhood parks, river, and coastal protection programs. SB 317 died on the Senate inactive file.

The Department of Parks and Recreation reports that should AB 2444 be enacted and approved by the voters, it would provide several funding opportunities to the County for local parks. The Department indicates that the bill would also provide grants for State park facilities operated by local agencies, such as the Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area. The Department also notes that the bill specifies that a total of \$55.0 million would be allocated to three local State conservancies: the Baldwin Hills Conservancy, the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy.

AB 2444 is supported by the: Audubon California; Big Sur Land Trust; Bolsa Chica Land Trust; California Association of Park and Recreation Commissioners and Board Members; California Association of Park Districts (in concept); California Association of Recreation and Park Districts; California Council of Land Trusts; California Park and Recreation Society; East Bay Regional Park District; Land Trust of Santa Cruz County; Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District; San Francisco Parks Alliance; Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority; Sonoma County Regional Parks; Sonoma County Water Agency; State Park Partners Coalition; Nature Conservancy; and Watershed Conservation Authority. This measure is opposed by the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association.

AB 2444 is scheduled for a hearing in the Senate Appropriations Committee on August 1, 2016. This measure contains an urgency clause, and it would take effect immediately, if enacted.

Previous Board Actions

The Board of Supervisors has acted to support the last three statewide park bond measures placed on the ballot.

In 2000, the Board approved a motion to support **Proposition 12, Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air and Coastal Protection Bond Act (Chapter 461, Statutes of 1999)**, which authorized the sale of \$2.1 billion in general obligation bonds,

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including \$780.0 million for local, regional parks primarily through block grants, and \$400.0 million for State parks deferred maintenance and acquisition. Proposition 12 was approved by the voters in March 2000.

In 2001, the Board approved a motion to support **AB 1602 (Chapter 875, Statutes of 2001)**, which placed the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Act on the March 5, 2000 ballot (**Proposition 40 of 2002**), and which authorized the issuance of \$2.6 billion in bonds for local, regional and State parks, including \$964.0 million for local, regional parks through both block grants and competitive grant awards, and \$250.0 million for State parks deferred maintenance and acquisition. The Board also approved a motion to support Proposition 40. The proposition was approved by the voters in March 2002.

In 2006, the Board approved a motion to support **Proposition 84, the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act**, which authorized \$5.4 billion in general obligation bonds for safe drinking water, water quality, and water supply; flood control; natural resource protection; and park improvements. While primarily a water and flood control bond, Proposition 84 also included \$457.0 million for safe neighborhood parks in park-poor and disadvantaged communities and nature centers, and \$400.0 million for State park deferred maintenance and acquisition. Proposition 84 was approved by the voters in November 2006.

Conclusion

Support for AB 2444 is consistent with existing Board-approved policy to support proposals to fund the acquisition, development, and rehabilitation of parks and recreation facilities and open space, and to seek additional funding for the establishment of new urban parks in the underserved areas of the County. It is also consistent with the Board's action of July 5, 2016, to create a new and dedicated funding source for parks and recreation facilities by placing the County's parks and recreation funding measure on the November 8, 2016 ballot.

We will continue to keep you advised.

SAH:JJ:MR
VE:AO:ma

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel